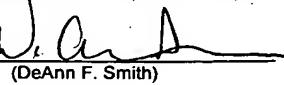


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 377 652 386, in an envelope addressed to: MS Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 15, 2004

Signature:



(DeAnn F. Smith)

Docket No.: WSV-2597
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Phillip R. Cunningham

Application No.: 10/612224

Filed: July 1, 2003



Art Unit: 1616

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ANTIBIOTICS THAT ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.